

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball
Summary of what is New for 2011-2012

➤ Credit Card Payments Online in WebPoint

Members may now pay for their memberships online in the WebPoint Registration system with a credit card. There will no longer be a need to send in the Online Registration Payment form unless the member is paying with a check, cash or money order.

➤ The Junior Membership has been changed to a Boys Membership and a Girls Membership.

The Boys Membership is \$50 on WebPoint. The boys should register online BUT pay the club directly and not the Region. The boys' club will submit the entire registration fee with the team registration in September.

The Girls Membership is also \$50 BUT when the girls register in WebPoint the charge will be \$25. The \$25 will allow them to attend sanctioned fall clinics and tryouts. Once they join a club the remaining \$25 and the birth certificate (if a new player) will be collected by the junior club. The club will pay the \$25 per person membership and submit the birth certificates to the Region when they turn in the Team Registration information. Only the players and coaches listed on the team registration form will be moved onto the respective team. If a member is picked up by a club as a training member, the girl will be moved to a training team and the club will not be charged the \$25 for her membership. If she is moved to a regular team roster, the club will be charged \$25 to bring the membership to a full junior member. The result of this is that the club will no longer have the ability to move players on or off a roster.

➤ Concussion Education and Acknowledgement Form

Concussion Education is now a focus for the Arizona Region. Senate Bill 1520 was signed into law last spring requiring coaches, parents and players to be educated as to the signs and symptoms of a concussion and what to do if you think you have one. In order for organizations to use school facilities there has to be concussion education for all coaches, players and parents in the organization. The return to play issue is at the forefront as the damage a concussion can do and the long term affects to the brain are now really being felt by generations of former athletes.

The Arizona Region has an Acknowledgement Form that must be signed each year and carried by the coach along with the Medical Release forms. The presence of these forms will be checked at each tournament just like the medical release forms. Due to the long term effects of concussions these forms must be kept on file with the Region until the player reaches the age of maturity plus 2 years - meaning until the player is 20 years old. We are asking the clubs to collect these acknowledgement forms from each player, make a copy of the form for the coach and then turn them in to the Region office with the Team Registration forms. We are also asking that the club talk to their coaches about concussions and return to play timelines for the club.

➤ 17's Division in Girls Championship and Girls Open

The 17's will have their own Region Championships in the Girls Championship and Open Divisions. The numbers of the 17's team are significant enough to warrant their own Championship. The 15's and 13's do not have enough teams registered in those age groups to warrant a separate Region Championships. As with any season if a team wants to play up for the Region Championships in an older age group than the team is registered they need to notify the Region office at the time they submit their tournament contracts in December. This decision may not be revoked once tournaments have begun.

➤ Qualification in Girls Championship Division

The girls Championship Division has gotten so large that a decision was made to reduce the number of 15's/16's teams in the division. More than half of the teams in the division are in the 15's and 16's age groups. Therefore the first tournament will be a qualification tournament for the 15's/16's age group as well as the 13's/14's age group. Championship will qualify 48 teams in the 15's/16's age group and 36 teams in the 13's/14's age group. The first tournament the teams will be seeded against teams of like ages for qualification. The second tournament those that qualified will be seeded into the Championship draw and snake seeded for further seeding in the division. The third - sixth tournaments will be normal play moving up and down following a division play. The teams that do not qualify in the 13's/14's and the 15's/16's divisions will be placed in Club Division and will play Club #2 and subsequent tournaments.

➤ Liberos

This season the FIVB and USA Volleyball have increased to two the number of Liberos allowed on a roster and able to play in a single match. Two Liberos can be designated for each match. Both can play in the same set but are not to be on the court at the same time.

USA Volleyball is championing the cause of the Libero to serve with the FIVB but it has not become legal yet at the national level so it is not yet legal in the Arizona Region.

➤ Club and Championship Division Format Changed Regarding Ref Assignments

The 7 and 8 team format for Championship and Club Divisions for girls has changed in regards to the ref assignments. There will no longer be two teams that share the reffing assignment. It will be one team assigned. This will result in teams having at least one match completely off. The shared reffing assignments caused some issues with teams with just one coach in that the coach never got a break all day since they were required to be at the score table. This new format does still require the coaches of 16's and under teams to be at the score table when their team is reffing and the coaches of the 17's and older to be in the vicinity and available to help with problems.

➤ National Club Qualifier

The Arizona Region National Club Qualifier will be split to coincide with the SoCal NQ. Those ages not scheduled in the SoCal NQ will be playing in the AZ Region NQ, each of the two weekends.